



An Invitation for Student Prose, Poetry, and Art

Coping in an Uncertain World: Students' Thoughts on Safety, Conflicts, and Homeland Security

Today's youth have September 11, hurricanes and devastating conflicts as major backdrops for their unfolding years. Each can deeply affect students and their families. How they incorporate the information from these events contributes to their lifelong development.

The Connecticut Commission on Children, the state Department of Education, the state Department of Emergency Management & Homeland Security, and the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents invite students to share their thoughts on terrorism, homeland security, heroes, youth leadership, and safety through prose, poetry, and art.

A team of state leaders and artists will review the entries. Students will be selected to present their works at the state Capitol. At this event, state leaders will discuss the steps they have taken to ensure the safety of children in the aftermath of terrorism or natural disaster.

The following questions offer students opportunity to pick topics that have been spotlighted by concerns about safety, terrorism and natural disasters. These include diversity, civic leadership, and pride in democracy. Students are encouraged to respond to these questions through essay, letter, poetry or art.

1. Who makes you feel safe?
2. What could your mayor or first selectman do to make you feel safer? What could the governor do? The President?
3. What could you do to make your town or city safer?
4. How would you explain terrorism to a younger child?
5. What did Hurricane Katrina teach you about natural disasters?
6. Who is your everyday hero?
7. What's the best way to honor people who sacrificed their lives for our safety?
8. Why is diversity so important in our democracy?

SEE REVERSE SIDE OR NEXT PAGE FOR RULES AND GUIDELINES



Rules and Guidelines

1. Submissions are open to school-age students, grades 1-12. Students may submit up to two entries.
2. Writing must be typed and no longer than one page. Writing will not be returned.
3. Artwork can be up to 11"x 17" for display purposes.
4. The deadline for submitting writing and art is **Friday, October 6, 2006**.
5. Reviewers will look for insight, originality and the capacity to inspire.
6. We prefer that writing be e-mailed to Rachel.Levy@cga.ct.gov. Writing may also be submitted by mail or delivered in person to Rachel Levy at the address below.
7. Please mail or deliver art to: Rachel Levy, Connecticut Commission on Children, 18-20 Trinity Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
8. Watch the Commission on Children website for updated information on an event at the state Capitol: www.cga.ct.gov/coc.

Submission Form

(PLEASE! This information must be attached to the writing or art submission.)

Student Name:	
Question student answers.	
Title of writing or art piece:	
Grade:	
School Name: Street: Town: Zip code: Telephone:	
Teacher's name:	